

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and allowance of the above-captioned patent application are respectfully requested. This application relates to nitric oxide releasing selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors.

Claims 1 to 15, 17 and 25 to 28 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 to 15, 17 and 25 to 28 have been subjected to restriction and/or election requirement.

This amendment cancels Claims 1 to 12, 25, 26 and 28 and amends claims 13, 15, 17 and 27. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims in the application will be claims 13 to 15, 17 and 27.

The Examiner has required restriction of claims 1 to 15, 17 and 25 to 28 and an election of one of Groups I to VII as outlined in the Restriction Requirement dated December 31, 2007. Applicants hereby elect Group VII: claims 13 to 15 and 17, drawn to methods of use for compounds of Formula I or II. This Amendment rewrites claims 13, 15 and 17 in independent form and claim 27 as a method claim depending from claim 17. The claims pertaining to Groups I to VI have been canceled, thereby rendering the restriction requirement moot and as such the election is made without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled subject matter in one or more future divisional applications. Claims 1 to 12, 25, 26 and 28 were canceled to advance prosecution of the subject application and their cancellation should not be construed as an admission that the restriction requirement was proper.

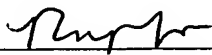
To the extent the Examiner requires the election of a single species within the pending claims, Applicants hereby elect EXAMPLE 1 for treating an inflammatory disease susceptible to treatment with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the requirement for restriction. Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and passage thereto is earnestly requested. Any additional fees required in connection with this Response may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned

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attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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